

New Commission President: “Barroso must lead European Business to the Champions League”

EUROCHAMBRES president Christoph Leilt congratulates the Commission president designate, Durao Barroso, and calls on him to set the course for a truly sustainable economic policy in Europe.

“The new Commission president now holds in his hand the choice to put growth policy on top of the European agenda. The Euro, Enlargement and the new Constitution were Prodi’s most important achievement. The Barroso Commission now has the chance and the duty to revive a strong European economy.” says Leilt.

A precondition for a European economy in the fast lane is that growth and employment are given top priority and small and medium-sized enterprises, which represent the backbone of European economy, are treated with according significance.

“The single over-arching priority for the new European Commission must be the revival and competitiveness of the European economy. The achievement of this priority will directly and profoundly impact on employment, on consumer confidence, on environmental and social well-being. Conversely, 5 more years of economic stagnation will alienate citizens, drive business away, and further erode the public finances and capacity to act - throughout the Union.” urges Leilt.

To realize that, it is necessary to have clear goals and interim targets. All - EU level, Member States and regions - have to pull together.

“Europe is more than a mailbox for national interests and wishes. Business supports the three pillar approach to European sustainable development. However, that approach is now seriously unbalanced. To put it another way: while Europe’s environmental legislation and social model can safely be said to be world beaters, Europe’s economy certainly can not be described as leading the world. If we are serious about a balanced and truly sustainable approach to development, then the economic pillar is the one in need of most attention and action. It is the job of the new Commission president to get this vision across in order to restore the credibility of the European Union in the eyes of its citizens.”

Today the European Council has decided to appoint the Prime Minister of Portugal, José Manuel Durão Barroso as President of the European Commission to succeed Romano Prodi whose term expires on the 31 October next.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Mr. Arnaldo Abruzzini, tel.: +32 2-282 08 78, abruzzo@eurochambres.be
PRESS CONTACT: Ms. Tosca Purr, tel.: +32 2-282 08 53, purr@eurochambres.be

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